

Amendments to the Drawings

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 2. This sheet, which includes Fig. 1-2, replaces the original sheet including Fig. 1-2. As required by the Office Action mailed September 28, 2006, the designation "Prior Art" has been added to Fig. 2. No new matter has been added.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

REMARKS

Claims 1-30 are pending. In an Office Action mailed September 28, 2006, claims 7-9 and 22-24 were rejected as anticipated by Applicant's allegedly admitted prior art. Claims 1-30 were rejected as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,981,061 to Sakakura ("Sakakura").

35 U.S.C. §102 Rejections: The "Background of the Invention" Does not Describe an Update Counter.

Claims 7-9 and 22-24 were rejected as anticipated by prior art allegedly admitted by Applicant. However, the Examiner has misinterpreted the "Background of the Invention" portion of Applicant's disclosure. Claims 7 and 22 recite, in relevant part, "a secondary version of [a] distributed business object...including a *secondary update counter*." The Examiner asserts that a "quantity order" shown in Fig. 2 is a secondary update counter. This is incorrect. As described in the specification, the "quantity" in Fig. 2 is merely an example of an order for a specific quantity of goods. ¶ [0004]. As is clear from comparing Figures 2 and 3A, a secondary update counter is a specific value that is distinct from data stored in a business object such as an order quantity. Notably, the "update counter" is not shown in the business objects illustrated in Fig. 2. For at least this reason, the "Background of the Invention" does not anticipate the claims.

Claims 7 and 22 further recite forwarding or means to forward "a representation of the transaction to a primary business management system, the representation including a value of the secondary update counter *as it existed before the transaction*." The Examiner asserts that this limitation is disclosed in Fig. 2 because one system transmits a modified order to another system. Office Action, p. 3, lines 3-5. This analysis is incorrect, and inconsistent with the Examiner's previous analysis of Fig. 2. As is clear from Fig. 2, the orders sent between systems 205 and 255 include a *changed quantity value* that was modified by a transaction. The transaction illustrated in Fig. 2 causes a change in a purchase order, and the changed purchase order is sent between systems. See ¶ [0005]. Fig. 2 and paragraph 0005 therefore do not describe sending any item *as it existed before a transaction*, much less an *update counter* as recited in the claims. The Examiner has misinterpreted Applicants' disclosure with respect to Fig. 2. In fact, Fig. 2 illustrates problems that may arise in the *absence* of an update counter. See ¶¶ [0005]-[0007].

With respect to claims 8-9 and 23-24, the Background of the Invention does not describe “a replacement value for the secondary update counter.” As described above, this portion of Applicant’s disclosure does not describe an update counter. It therefore also does not describe a replacement value for an update counter, and does not anticipate the claims. Claims 8-9 and 23-24 depend from claims 7 and 22, respectively, and therefore are also allowable for at least the reasons given above with respect to the independent claims.

For at least the reasons given above, claims 7-9 and 22-24 are not anticipated by Applicant’s disclosure. Withdrawal of the rejection and reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. §103 Rejections: Neither the “Background of the Invention” nor Sakakura Describes an Update Counter.

Claims 1-30 were rejected as obvious over Applicant’s alleged admission in view of Sakakura. Independent claims 1, 10, 16, and 25 recite, in relevant part, “a primary update counter” and “a secondary update counter.” As previously described with respect to independent claims 7 and 22, the “Background of the Invention” portion of Applicant’s disclosure simply does not describe an update counter.

The Examiner further asserts that Sakakura discloses comparing and/or updating a primary and secondary update counter. Office Action, p. 4-5. This is incorrect. Sakakura describes a system that performs steps including “comparing the buying quantity and the selling quantity” (col. 5, lines 56-57) and various operations on a “buying quantity” and a “selling quantity.” *See* col. 5, line 56 – col. 6, line 12. These values refer to the number of a product that a user wishes to buy or sell, such as “oranges harvested in mid-February.” Col. 8, lines 42-50. The system in Sakakura then matches buyers and sellers of like quantity. *See* col. 5, lines 18-45. There is simply no teaching or suggestion in Sakakura to use an *update counter* as recited in the claims, and therefore the claims are not obvious.

Dependent claims 2-9, 11-15, 17-21, and 26-30 are not obvious for at least the reasons given above with respect to the independent claims. Although the Office Action indicated that

claims 1-30 were rejected under §103, no reasoning was given for the rejection of claims 7-9 and 22-24. However, since independent claims 7 and 22 include the limitation "a second update counter," they are not obvious for at least the reasons given above for the other independent claims. Withdrawal of the rejection and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Drawings

Figure 2 has been amended to include the designation "Prior Art" as required by the Office Action. No new matter has been added.

Conclusion

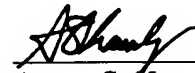
Based on the above remarks, Applicants believe the claims are in condition for allowance. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayment to the deposit account of Kenyon & Kenyon LLP, Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned to discuss any matter concerning this application.

Attachments

Respectfully submitted,

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